Claims

1.   A method of encoding images including areas (11) of relevant image data and areas (12) of irrelevant image data, comprising the step of identifying (2) said irrelevant image data, characterized by replacing (4) at least irrelevant image data next to a boundary (13) between said areas by pseudo-image data smoothing the transition between relevant and irrelevant image
5   data.

2.   A method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized by detecting (2) and encoding (3) the boundary between said areas.

10 3.   An encoder for encoding images including areas (11) of relevant image data and areas (12) of irrelevant image data, comprising means (2) for identifying said irrelevant image data, characterized by means (4) for replacing at least irrelevant image data next to a boundary (13) between said areas by pseudo-image data smoothing the transition between relevant and irrelevant image data.
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4.   An encoder as claimed in Claim 3, characterized by means (2) for detecting and means (3) for encoding the boundary between said areas.

5.   A method of decoding images including areas (11) of relevant image data and
20 areas (12) of irrelevant image data, characterized by identifying (8) pseudo-image data in response to boundary information and replacing (9) said pseudo-image data by predetermined image data.

6.   A method as claimed in Claim 5, characterized by receiving (8) encoded
25 boundary information and decoding (8) said boundary information.

7.   A decoder for decoding images including areas (11) of relevant image data and areas (12) of irrelevant image data, characterized by means (8) for identifying pseudo-image data in response to boundary information and means (9) for replacing said pseudo-image data by
30 predetermined image data.

8.   A decoder as claimed in Claim 7, characterized by means (8) for receiving encoded boundary information and means (8) for decoding said boundary information.

9.   An encoded image signal representing an image including areas of relevant image data and areas of irrelevant image data, characterized in that the irrelevant image data has been replaced by pseudo-image data smoothing the transition between relevant and irrelevant image data.

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10.   An image signal as claimed in Claim 9, further including boundary information (B) defining the boundary between said areas.

11.   A digital storage medium (6) on which a signal as claimed in Claim 9 or 10 is
10 stored.